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US forces quit Iraq nine years on



(AFP)-IRAQ, NASIRIYAH US soldiers congratulate each other as they board the last C17 aircraft carrying US troops out of Iraq at US Camp Adder on the outskirts of the southern city of Nasiriyah on December 17, 2011. The last US forces left Iraq and entered Kuwait, nearly nine years after launching a divisive war to oust Saddam Hussein, and just as the oil-rich country grapples with renewed political deadlock. (See story pg 6)

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Monday, December 19, 2011

Inaugural flight of AirTran weekend service from Baltimore begins



Welcoming water canon at the arrival of AirTran from Baltimore (see story on pg 2)

Mass burial readied as death toll passes 650 in the Philippines



Rescuers carry a dead body of a victim of the devastating floods in Cagayan de Oro City

CAGAYAN DE ORO, The Philippines (AFP) - Rescuers struggled to help survivors and a ravaged city prepared for a mass burial as the death toll from devastating flash floods in the southern Philippines rose past 650 on Sunday.

With hundreds more still listed as missing, tropical storm Washi left Philippine territory after dumping heavy rains that overwhelmed rivers in the port cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan on Mindanao island at the weekend.

Iligan, where more than 200 people were killed, was preparing to bury unclaimed bodies in a mass grave as

Villarin said body bags will be marked for possible exhumation.

"We will put markings on the cadaver bags which will give the physical features of each body before they put them in the mass grave," she said.

Entire villages were swept away by floodwaters as residents, normally spared from typhoons that ravage other parts of the Philippines every year, slept in the early hours of Saturday despite storm warnings.

The Philippine Red Cross said 652 people had been confirmed dead by its field staff and another 808 were currently listed as missing.

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Inaugural flight of AirTran weekend service from Baltimore begins



Cutting the ribbon

Island travel executives and representatives of AirTran Airways welcomed a spanking new and full Boeing 737, which arrived ahead of schedule, on Saturday afternoon, December 17th, particularly notable for the demonstration of growth as tourism partners between Aruba and this popular airline.

With the establishment of this Saturday and Sunday flight from the Washington/Baltimore area, Aruba now counts 13 gateway cities in the U.S.; three of them serviced by AirTran, revealed Aruba Airport Authority (ATA) CEO

Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, during the welcome reception in the VIP room of the Reina Beatrix International Airport.

When the airline first began flying to Aruba, they had a single flight a week from Atlanta; this quickly was expanded to a daily route. Not long after they added weekend flights from Orlando and now with the Washington/Baltimore service, they count three flights arriving from major cities every Saturday and Sunday, and the daily flight from Atlanta.

"There is no question this makes you a major source of

airlift for Aruba," stated Aruba Airport Authority CEO Peter Steinmetz. He also expressed admiration for their "commitment to the air industry," having just purchased a number of new planes.

As is traditional with an inaugural arrival, the plane was greeted at the gate with a ritual water cannon bath, and AirTran Station Manager SRQ Aaron Varnell, stationed out of Sarasota, Florida, was on island for the occasion. Mr. Steinmetz presented him and his colleague, Operations Supervisor Jason Lamb, with a memento of the day.

Mr. Varnell acknowledged he is well pleased to be welcoming another flight to Aruba, for which there is great demand, along with the airport's efficient handling of air traffic. They have high expectations for this new service.

Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) CEO Jim Hepple echoed the sentiments of both Mr. Steinmetz and Varnell; this very important route opens a new market for the island with a very actively traveling demographic.



Aaron Varnell cuts the cake



AHATA CEO Jim Hepple

AirTran was purchased by Southwest Airlines last May; Mr. Steinmetz expressed the hope to "someday soon see purple and red of this airline on our runways," which would herald service from Texas and the southwest.

"However, we are quite happy at present to see another of your planes with its signature colors gracing our airport; a warm welcome to AirTran flights from Baltimore."

By Rosalie Klein

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Exposition “Divine Intervention” by Agnes Leslie opens at CEDEHM

Centro pa Desaroyo di Hende Muhe “Center for the Development of Women” is located in a landmark building on Oranjestraat, a small street off the Caya Betico Croes and is well worth a visit. Not only to appreciate the colonial architecture, but also to enjoy the first solo exhibition of 27 original paintings by island artist and art teacher, Agnes Leslie, which opened on Friday evening, December 16th.

Agnes, though born on Aruba, pursued her art education and a teaching career in Holland for a number of years before returning to her native island in 1998 to counsel and teach. It has been her practice to guide children to



Agnes and Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar open the expo

express and develop their mind, thoughts and future, incorporating an art form to express their emotions.

Her present exhibition

very much reflects this philosophy, and in many ways is her personal epiphany, which also reflects the philosophy and purpose of CEDEHM re-

garding the equality and escalation of women in island society. “My paintings are actually short stories. Using color, lines, and symbols in combination with expression and emotion, I have tried to capture ever-changing human beings in relation to their peers, culture and nature. In this collection I focused on women, partly because of where the show is on display, and also because I feel this is a statement women need to hear.”

“It is my intention to give form to the emotions and experiences of women. They call on the viewer to get acquainted with them in their environment of thoughts, struggles and development,”

states Agnes. She agrees that for many women, particularly the Caribbean woman and other male-dominated societies, it is a long, difficult process to attain a state of being an independent, fully realized person. Such societies tend to drill into women from birth the need of a husband or man in their life to validate their existence and to truly achieve happiness. She is not explicitly saying women should forego such relationships; only that they are not essential to define a woman’s purpose in life, and they should not suppress or forsake their own intellect and talents while dedicating themselves to their partner.

Continue on pg 5

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Veteran visitors and all the community welcome the opening of Trop Club & Casino

The new Tropicana Resort & Casino reopened the cozy facility in Eagle Beach under their international brand, "Trop Club & Casino" on Thursday and Friday, December 15th and 16th. The grand celebration took two nights; one for island dignitaries, and the following night they hosted a huge street party with free beer for all comers during the first hour.



GM and Casino Manager Brian Stedeford with staff



Carol and daughter Megan enjoy the party



Casino Staff welcomes new members



Friends welcome the return of the cute, cozy casino

was the option to make a complete night of it in one convenient spot; many expressed their extreme pleasure to have this greatly appreciated amenity available once again, under a well-respected brand.

By Rosalie Klein

Luxury Living at an Island Paradise



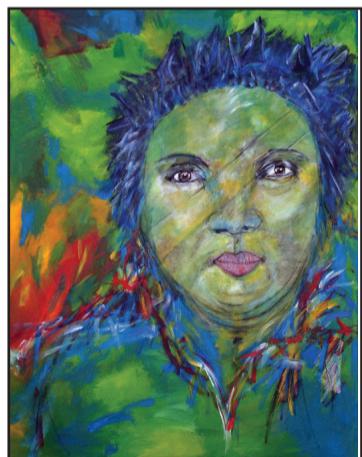
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Exposition “Divine Intervention” by Agnes Leslie opens at CEDEHM

Continued from pg 3



Agnes with CEDEHM staff



Artist Agnes Leslie and a favorite piece

Aruba's Minister of Social and Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, a happily married woman with two children, and still a fully realized career woman and community leader, had the honor of opening the exhibition with a symbolic breaking of balloons, which can be interpreted several ways. She admired the work and expressed her opinion that "art is an essential part of change in all branches of society; it is the artists who often point out our weaknesses and lead

the way."

CEDEHM is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. All are welcome to come and enjoy the work of Agnes Leslie, which is for sale, and to take advantage of the agency's services of counseling and education. Call 588-1391

for information.

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Czech revolution icon Vaclav Havel dies

PRAGUE (AFP) - Freedom icon and Czech ex-president Vaclav Havel, who steered his country peacefully to independence from Soviet rule, died aged 75 on Sunday, drawing a wave of tributes from around the globe.

Accolades poured in for the statesman and playwright hailed as a "great European" and the "soul of the Czech revolution" that toppled communism in his country.

Mourners held candle-light vigils across the Czech Republic, with an ad hoc memorial erected on Prague's central Wenceslas Square, the focal point of anti-communist rallies in 1989, and at Prague Castle, the seat of Czech presidents.

Havel, president of Czechoslovakia from 1989 to 1992 and of its successor Czech Republic from 1993 to 2003, had long battled poor health, partly caused by the five years he spent in communist-era jails.

President Vaclav Klaus said Havel had become a symbol of the modern Czech state.

"His personality, name and work substantially helped the Czech Republic swiftly become a part of the community of free and democratic countries," he added.

Under Havel's presidency, the Czech Republic joined NATO in 1999. He was also largely responsible for steering the country's entry into the European Union in 2004.

Klaus's office said a state funeral would be held for Havel, whose coffin will be on display Monday and Tuesday in a Prague church, before moving to Prague Castle on Wednesday.

US forces quit Iraq nine years on

IRAQ-KUWAIT BORDER (AFP) - The last US forces left Iraq and entered Kuwait on Sunday, nearly nine years after launching a divisive war to oust Saddam Hussein, and just as the oil-rich country grapples with renewed political deadlock.

The last of roughly 110 vehicles carrying 500-odd troops mostly from the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, crossed the border at 7:38 am (0438 GMT), leaving just 157 military trainers at the US embassy, in a country where there were once nearly 170,000 troops on 505 bases.

It ended a war that left tens of thousands of Iraqis and nearly 4,500 American soldiers dead, many more wounded, and 1.75 million Iraqis displaced, after the US-led invasion unleashed brutal sectarian killing.

"It feels good, it feels real good" to be out of Iraq, Sergeant Duane Austin told AFP after getting out of his vehicle in Kuwait.

"It's been a pretty long year -- it's time to go home now."

The 27-year-old father-of-two, who completed three tours in Iraq, added: "It's been a long time, coming and going. It's been pretty hard on all of us. ... (It will) be a nice

break to get back, knowing that it's over with now."

Republican candidates for the White House slammed President Barack Obama the US troop withdrawal, warning of greater Iranian clout and violence in the strife-torn country.

"People do not understand how much the Iranians have penetrated Iraq, and that the vacuum we've created will lead to, I think, a very, very unstable and very unpleasant environment in Iraq," former House speaker Newt Gingrich, the current frontrunner for the party's nomination, told CBS television.

Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, Gingrich's chief rival for the party's nod to take on Obama in November 2012 elections, warned on "Fox News Sunday" that the troop withdrawal was "precipitous."

"I think we're going to find that this president, by not putting in place a status of forces agreement with the Iraqi leadership, has pulled our troops out in a precipitous way and we should have left 10-, 20-, 30-thousand personnel there to help transition to the Iraqi's own military capabilities," he said.

"I'm very concerned in this setting. I hope it works out."



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Sexual violence affects one in five US women: study

(AFP) - Nearly one in five American women have been victims of rape or attempted rape at some point in their lives, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said in a disturbing report on sexual violence in the United States.

Releasing the results of a first-ever survey of nearly 10,000 women contacted randomly by telephone in 2010, the federal agency said 18.3 percent of women "have been raped at some time in their lives."

That includes "completed forced penetration, attempted forced penetration, or alcohol/drug facilitated completed penetration," it added in an executive summary of the 113-page report posted on its website (www.cdc.gov).

Just over half of female rape victims (51.1 percent) said they had been targeted by an "intimate partner" -- a current or former partner or spouse -- and 40.8 percent by an acquaintance.

It also found that 1.3 million

women had been raped during the year preceding the survey -- a substantially higher number than the 188,380 rapes and sexual assaults cited in a Department of Justice crime survey for 2010.

And it revealed that 24.3 percent of women -- and nearly one in seven men -- have suffered "severe physical violence" at the hands of an intimate partner, such as being hit, slammed against a surface, or beaten.



Health & Living

US approves first heart pump for children

(AFP) - The US Food and Drug Administration has approved a first mechanical cardiac assist device for children that can help keep patients alive as they await a transplant.

The EXCOR Pediatric System, made by German company Berlin Heart, can be sized to fit young people from newborns to teenagers.

"This is a step forward, it is the first FDA-approved pulsatile mechanical circulatory support device specifically designed for children. Previous adult heart assist devices were

too large to be used in critically ill children to keep them alive while they wait to get a new heart," said Susan Cummings, chief pediatric medical officer in the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health.

The device was tested on a group of 48 US patients, and was found to improve survival rates for transplant patients.

As a whole, a reported 12-17 percent of children and 23 percent of infants die while they await heart transplants, according to the FDA.



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Facebook to sue Mark Zuckerberg?

Popular social networking website Facebook has threatened to sue Mark Zuckerberg, an Israeli entrepreneur born Rotem Guez who changed his name to that of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

The Israeli entrepreneur says he has legally changed his name to that of Facebook's CEO, a step meant to persuade the social networking site to back down from what he says are threats to take legal action against him.

He says a lawyer for Facebook pressed him this week to close his online business Like Store, calling it illegal.

Like Store promises to enhance companies' online reputations by offering Facebook users free content only accessible by clicking "like" on the companies' profiles.

The Israeli acknowledged on week-end that his company violates Facebook's terms of use, but says many U.S. companies offer similar services.

Facebook declined to comment specifically on the name change, but said it was going after those who violate the company's terms as part of efforts to protect users.

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Sci-Tech

More than 50 feared dead in Russian oil rig disaster

VLADIVOSTOK (AFP) - At least four people died and 49 were missing and feared dead Sunday after an oil rig capsized and sank in icy seas in far east Russia, the country's second major water disaster since July.

Another 14 people were rescued as some officials clung to hope that more crew members could be pulled out alive even after spending some 16 hours in the frigid waters of the Okhotsk Sea.

The Kolskaya oil rig platform with 67 people on board was being towed from the Kamchatka peninsula across the sea towards Sakhalin island when it got caught up in a storm, capsized and sank within 20 minutes, officials said.

President Dmitry Medvedev ordered a probe into the disaster, telling officials to provide victims with all the necessary assistance.

"This is a horrible tragedy which caught the crew off guard," said Dmitry Dmitriyenko, governor of the northern Murmansk region, which was home to 33 of the 67-strong crew.

The rescue operation was continuing through the night even though efforts have been hampered by strong winds and waves around five metres (15 feet) high.

Rescue officials have repeatedly refused to say whether there was any hope of finding any more of the missing alive. They said wetsuits could protect people from frigid temperatures for around six hours.

The federal sea and river agency said in a statement that the Kolskaya keeled over at 0145 GMT and sank within 20 minutes in water with a depth of over 1,000 metres.

The crew was waiting to be evacuated by helicopter but the platform capsized and sank

before they could board their rescue rafts, officials said.

Officials blamed violations of safety rules for the disaster, a frequent cause of accidents in Russia.

Four people in wetsuits have been located in the water without any signs of life but rescuers were unable to pull them out because of the poor weather, the federal sea and river agency said in a statement.

Emergency officials said two of the 14 people rescued were suffering from hypothermia and another two had minor injuries.

The rig was fully submerged by Sunday evening, and all four life rafts have been found with no one on board.

Kasayev said the Kolskaya had experienced technical problems even before the accident, and had been forced to constantly pump water out of one of its air tanks due to a leak.

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ACROSS

1. Suzy of "Titanic"
5. Frogman's gear
10. Be in the hole
13. Various: abbr.
14. Joined the crew team
15. Hitch
16. Out of whack
18. ___ time (never)
19. Destiny
20. Stores a sword
22. Writer Seton
24. Purplish black
25. Heroes
28. ___ Cruces
31. New bride's acquisition
34. Ils ___ (they are, in Paris)
35. ___ case (nervous wreck)
37. Classical record label: abbr.
38. Challenging skating jump
39. Moving about
40. Actress Gardner et al.
41. Pinatubo's detritus
42. Staples Center cagers
43. State bird of Hawaii
44. Controversial Reagan appointee
46. Aesthete's concern
47. Armchair traveler's tome
48. Roach's nightmare
50. Duplicate
52. Completely off the hook
56. Sculptor Alexander
60. Lee of "Pushing Daisies"

61. Gratis

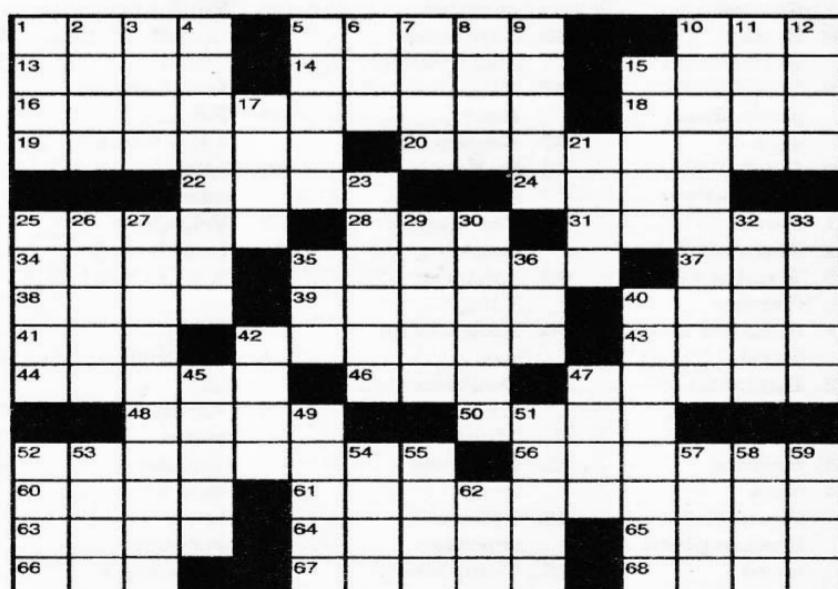
63. Benevolent and protective order
64. Clean the tub
65. Chilean coin
66. Songwriter Farrell
67. Transmits
68. Hot times in Paris

DOWN

1. Frenzied
2. Iconic British compact
3. Followers: suffix
4. Corn, Yiddish-style
5. Pushover
6. Saturn, for one
7. "Trinity" author
8. One of the March daughters
9. Cutting tools

10. Fair and square
11. Wax's counterpart
12. Oft-inflated items
15. Quashed, as a rumor
17. Twilights, poetically
21. Hit the landing strip
23. Seward's Folly
25. Pakistanis' religion
26. Dump a bucket of water on
27. Bar specification
29. Starwort
30. Avoids
32. Radarange name
33. ___ up (gets the picture)
35. Sheepish sound
36. Ineloquent utterances

40. "Home on the Range" creature
42. Explorer Ericson
45. Fills
47. Asian nursemaid
49. Impurity
51. Serving scorers
52. Gush
53. John of the Velvet Underground
54. Noun suffix
55. "A Yank at ___" (1942 Rooney film)
57. Song for screen lovers, often
58. Actual being
59. Certain antique autos
62. 1963 Newman film



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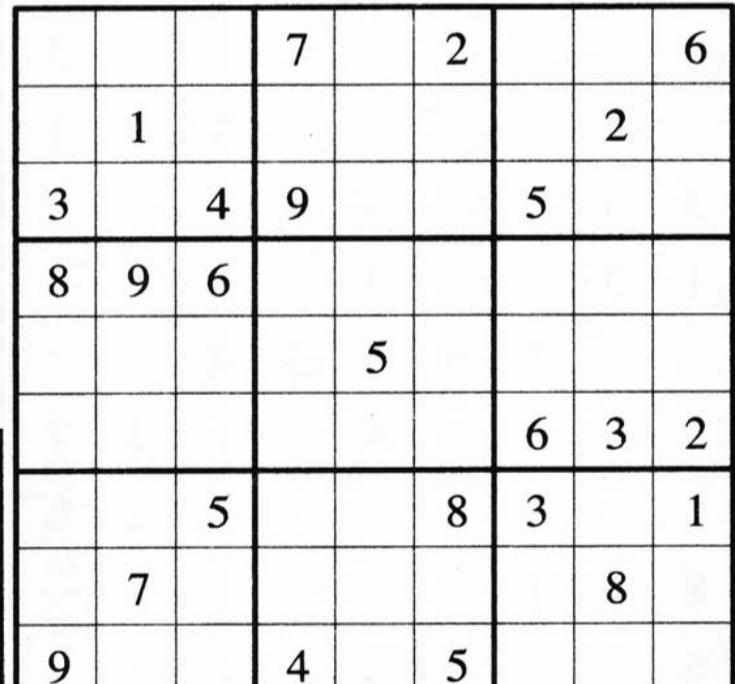
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Sudoku



9	3	8	4	1	5	2	6	7
1	7	2	3	9	6	4	8	5
4	6	5	1	8	4	9	6	3
7	5	1	2	7	8	3	9	1
2	4	3	6	5	7	8	1	9
8	9	6	1	2	3	7	5	4
3	2	4	9	6	1	5	7	8
6	1	7	5	8	4	9	2	3
5	8	9	7	3	2	1	4	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Euro ministers 'to hold debt crisis talks today'

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Eurozone finance ministers will hold telephone talks on the debt crisis on Monday to flesh out decisions taken at a key summit earlier this month to save the European currency.

With several eurozone nations under threat of a credit rating downgrade, a key focus of the conference call will be plans to boost International Monetary Fund (IMF) coffers to allow it to come to the aid of floundering members.

A government source told AFP on condition of anonymity that the eurozone finance ministers, known as the Eurogroup, will hold telephone talks at about 1500 GMT Monday "to discuss what happens after the European summit of December 8 and 9" on saving the eurozone.

European Union members who are not part of the monetary union will also take part

in the talks.

At the last summit, which saw Britain bloc plans for EU treaty change to save the currency, eurozone countries announced plans to pump 200 billion euros (\$260 billion) into an IMF war chest. Eurozone members were to pro-

vide about three quarters, and other EU countries the rest.

The aim was to allow the Washington-based institution to come to the aid of eurozone countries in difficulty, and the summit gave leaders 10 days to work out the details.

Obama signs spending bill, averts shutdown

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama on Sunday faced a new congressional gridlock over a payroll tax cut after he signed into law a \$1 trillion spending bill, averting a government shutdown.

The US Senate passed the spending bill and a two-month payroll tax holiday extension on Saturday, putting that problem down the road, but not for long.

Obama had initially sought a one-year extension for the tax cut and unemployment benefits.

The compromise tax measure further dented Obama's authority by forcing him to revisit a contentious pipeline plan, and while the legislation passed easily, its short duration highlighted the inability of feuding lawmakers to bridge the divide on a more comprehensive deal.

The deal thrusts the contentious Keystone XL pipeline, to carry oil from Canada's tar sands to the US Gulf Coast, back onto the political agenda.

Obama had put off a decision on the project, which

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Finance

Crisis will strengthen euro: French bank boss

ROME (AFP) - The euro will come out stronger from the debt crisis but governments must act quickly to put their plans into action, the chairman of French bank BNP Paribas said in an interview published Sunday.

"We are convinced that the euro will come out of the crisis stronger," Baudouin Prot told Italian business daily Il Sole 24 Ore.

He also dismissed the threat of a downgrade of France's AAA credit rating, saying: "Life will go on even after rating agency decisions."

"The important thing is that France does what it has to do in terms of putting its accounts in order and ensuring growth," he added.

Referring to a European Union summit this month at which all EU states except for Britain agreed to draft a strict pact with penalties to ensure cuts of budget deficits and debt, Prot stressed the urgency.

"The agreement in Brus-

sels is positive and important but it's even more important that the decisions taken are implemented quickly. The scenario remains fragile and new plunges are possible," he said.

He also condemned a voluntary agreement for banks to take a 50-percent cut in their Greek bond holdings in order to reduce Greece's debt.

"The haircut was a terrible idea which had a strong impact in terms of a lack of confidence from investors," he said.

"It's very unpleasant, this incident is still not over, and it's unacceptable that some people are trying to raise the haircut to 80 percent," he added.

BNP Paribas is one of the biggest banks in the euro-zone.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer



pits environmentalists against labor unions and business interests in his political base, until after the November 2012 elections in which he is hoping to secure a second term.

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'Girl with the Dragon Tattoo' readies Hollywood debut

NEW YORK (AFP) - Hollywood's first take on the best-selling Millennium trilogy, the blockbuster "Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," opens in the United States next week, starring Daniel Craig and Rooney Mara.

The film, directed by David Fincher, is the first US interpretation of a book series by Swedish writer Stieg Larsson that has captivated the world since its posthumous publication in 2005, a year after his death, selling 65 million copies in 46 countries.

Britain's Craig, the latest actor to portray the classic spy character "James Bond," plays magazine publisher in disgrace Mikael Blomkvist in the US version.

He is joined by young US actress Mara as talented hacker Lisbeth Salander. Mara's pow-

erful performance earned her a Golden Globe nomination for best actress in a drama this week.

"I had read all the three books and I had a real clear picture of who this girl was," Mara said at a press conference in New York on Saturday,

The actress, who had small role in the Facebook movie "The Social Network," also by Fincher, said the director gave her a long to-do list for the role. "I have to become a smoker, to have piercings, to ride a motorcycle, just stuff like that," she said.

Filmed in Stockholm and other parts of Sweden, as well as in Zurich, the film features extraordinary winter landscapes, recreating the atmosphere of isolation and mystery showcased in the novel.

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Let's Do it Again: Beach Boys announce reunion

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Iconic 1960s Californian band the Beach Boys are reuniting to celebrate their 50th anniversary with a new album and a 50-date world tour next year, the group announced.

The original members of the band whose hits include "Good Vibrations" and "Surfin' USA" -- who fueled reunion talk when they recently re-recorded "Do it Again" -- had already been in the studio working on songs for the new album.

They will perform at the annual Grammy awards show in Los Angeles in February, before launching their tour in New Orleans in April, they said in a statement on their website.

"This anniversary is special to me because I miss the boys and it will be a thrill for me to make a new record and be on stage with them again," said core band member Brian Wilson, announcing the reunion on their website.

Mike Love, a founder member of the band which his three cousins Brian, Carl and Dennis Wilson, said the idea came when they got together to re-record "Do It Again" at Capitol Records, the label which launched them five decades ago.

The band, famous for their close vocal harmonies, was formed in 1961 by the three Wilson brothers, Love and

friend Al Jardine, while Bruce Johnston and David Marks, who joined later, will also be part of the reunion.

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Just in time for gift giving season: the new Mario Hernandez Collection



Finely crafted, stylish leather accessories and luggage are the hallmark of the Mario Hernandez store in Paseo Herencia Mall, and they are very excited to have just received the newest collection for 2012, just in time for holiday gift giving.

Two distinctive collections feature the lively work of artists Debilzan and Vianey for eye-turning handbags, luggage and wallets that make great gifts and stocking stuffers for either gender. For the woman who has everything, the one-of-a-kind, fuchsia Mia bag made of pure leather embossed with a contemporary rose pattern will make a unique gift she will treasure. There is no other bag from Mario Hernandez Couture quite like it. —literally!

The MH line of hand-

crafted leather goods is complemented by a stunning hand woven or painted silk scarves and shawls to affect beautifully coordinated look. Sumptuous knit tops sport their famous Chrysalis design and unicorn logo in trendy hues.

Sleek and stylish fashionistas of either gender will be well pleased with the new Mario Hernandez collection, available exclusively at the signature store in Paseo Herencia shopping center in Palm Beach



Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock

your shelves before arrival.

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Villa Catalina Living room

barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-



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Barcelona beat Santos to win World Club Cup



Lionel Messi (right), widely acknowledged as the best player in the world, and 19-year-old Brazilian sensation Neymar.

YOKOHAMA (AFP) - Lionel Messi grabbed a classy brace as the "artists" of Barcelona out-classed the Brazilians Santos 4-0 to lift the Club World Cup Sunday and confirm their status as the best team on the planet.

The clash between the European and South American champions in Japan had been billed as a showdown between Messi, widely acknowledged as the best player in the world, and 19-year-old Brazilian sensation Neymar.

In the event, it was no contest -- either between the two supreme talents or their teams -- as Barcelona picked up their second world crown after winning the competition in 2009.

Barca boss Pep Guardiola called his men "artists" and dedicated the 13th title in his three-and-a-half years in charge to striker David Villa, who flew home after fracturing his shin in the semi-final and faces months out.

Messi, set up by Xavi, got the first after 17 minutes, before Xavi put Barcelona 2-0 up just seven minutes later to put them firmly in control, as prodigious

forward Neymar struggled to get a sniff of the ball.

Cesc Fabregas, who pulled the strings in midfield, got the third on the stroke of half-time as the Spanish champions, who were at full-strength, threatened to run riot for the full house of 68,166.

Messi got his second eight minutes from time as he rounded the keeper to roll the ball in after the influential Dani Alves threaded the ball through to him.

His opposite number Muricy Ramalho said there was no disgrace despite the heavy defeat.

"Barcelona have played various teams around the world and nobody can beat them. Eventually some team may, but I don't think it's possible now," he said.

Barca had the better of an open first 15 minutes, Messi forcing a save out of Rafael Cabral after skipping a couple of half-hearted Santos challenges.

Shortly after that the Argentine was at it again, taking a dinked pass from Xavi and lifting the ball delicately over

Cabral from just a few yards out to put the Catalans into an early lead at the International Stadium in Yokohama.

It was all Barca, so it was no surprise when they went further ahead on 24 minutes, full-back Alves driving down the right wing and cutting inside to set up Xavi, who rifled the ball past an exposed Cabral.

Still Barca and Messi kept coming. On 26 minutes he was denied by a terrific last-gasp tackle when through on goal, and three minutes later Fabregas struck Cabral's post after he was set up by Xavi.

Fabregas and Barca would not be denied, as the former Arsenal man grabbed the third just before half-time after more good link-up play -- including an audacious back-heal -- from the irrespressible Messi.

Less than a minute after the restart they should have gone 4-0 up when Fabregas, set up by Messi, saw his prodded effort on the run saved by Cabral, then Neymar went up the other end and headed over when he should have scored.

Belatedly, the Brazilian side were up for it after Ramalho had sent them out onto the frigid pitch well ahead of their opponents.

Neymar should have found the net when clean through on goal just before the hour, but Victor Valdes saved well with his legs. It summed up the teenager's night.

Messi put the gloss on a polished performance from him and his side as he showed trademark deft footwork to dance around Cabral and walk the ball in.

City on top as United stay in touch

LONDON (AFP) - Manchester City were left two points in front of champions Manchester United at the top of the English Premier League after a 1-0 win at home to Arsenal on Sunday.

David Silva scored the only goal of a high-quality contest in the 53rd minute after Mario Balotelli cut in from the left and let fly with a powerful low shot that Arsenal keeper Wojciech Szczesny did well to save but could not hold.

Sergio Aguero followed up and, as the ball came loose on the right, Silva pounced to score from close range.

City, beaten by Chelsea last time out, missed several chances to double their lead and were almost made to pay when in-form Arsenal striker Robin van Persie shot weakly at England goalkeeper Joe Hart from eight yards.

Then Argentina defender Pablo Zabaleta nearly made it 2-0 to the hosts when his shot beat Szczesny only to bounce off the keeper's right post.

Hart then preserved City's lead in the 90th minute when he tipped over a shot from Thomas Vermaelen that came through a crowd of players. In stoppage time, another Vermaelen strike curled just wide.

Defeat meant Arsenal, beaten for the first time in nine games, stayed fifth in the table, 12 points behind City.

"It was very important

after Chelsea -- we didn't deserve to lose that game," said City manager Roberto Mancini.

His Arsenal counterpart, Arsene Wenger, added: "We were unlucky because we had chances."

Earlier on Sunday, United returned to the summit for a couple of hours after a 2-0 win away to Queens Park Rangers.

Wayne Rooney needed fewer than 60 seconds to open the scoring at Loftus Road before Michael Carrick made the game safe for the visitors in the 56th minute.

United went ahead when England striker Rooney headed home a cross from Antonio Valencia after releasing the Ecuadorian down the right.

The champions doubled their lead early in the second half when Carrick intercepted a loose square ball from Rangers midfielder Joey Barton.

England international Carrick was allowed to advance by the Londoners' retreating defence and then beat Radek Cerny at the goalkeeper's near post with a shot from the edge of the box for what was his first Premier League goal in nearly two years.

"It was a good team performance; we played some good football and will take a 2-0 win away from home," said United manager Sir Alex Ferguson.

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Westwood storms

continued from page 16



Lee Westwood of England poses with trophy after winning the Thailand Golf Championship 2011.

Schwartzel began the day knowing he had to overhaul a four-shot lead and got off to a good start when he birdied the first hole, while Westwood could only manage a par.

But Westwood responded quickly with two successive birdies and at the turn the Eng-

lishman held a five-shot lead.

There was drama at the par-five 11th when Schwartzel sunk an eagle while Westwood missed a birdie putt, resulting in a two-shot swing to the South African and cutting the lead to three.

Both players birdied the 12th but Westwood also picked up a stroke at the 13th to restore his four-shot lead.

Schwartzel's challenge effectively ended at the next hole when a poor chip saw him make a bogey, leaving Westwood five shots clear with just four to play. He went on to stretch the lead by a further two strokes.

John Daly finished joint 16th after shooting 75 in the final round while Sergio Garcia recorded a 71 for joint 24th place.

Japanese star Ryo Ishikawa finished what was a miserable tournament for him with a 73, well down the field on a total of 297, nine over par.

Ishikawa was in good company though, sharing the same overall score as British Open champion Darren Clarke who shot a disappointing 77 in his final round.

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Golf: Westwood storms to emphatic victory

BANGKOK (AFP) - Lee Westwood displayed all his class and experience Sunday as he brushed aside a challenge from Masters champion Charl Schwartzel to win the \$1 million Thailand Golf Championship by seven strokes.

The emphatic victory at the Amata Spring Country Club, Westwood's fourth of the season, moved him up to world number two, replacing Rory McIlroy.

The Englishman had played fine golf all week in-

cluding a stunning 12-under-par 60 in the first round.

He shot 69 in his final round to finish the tournament on 266, an impressive 22 under par, for his third win in Asia this season.

Schwartzel fought hard and briefly threatened the leader, but the South African had to settle for the runner-up spot after shooting an even-par 72.

Little-known American Michael Thompson performed well with a 70 to finish in third place, one shot back, while in

joint fourth place two strokes further behind were Thailand's Chawalit Plaphol and Simon Dyson of England.

"I'm obviously delighted," said Westwood on his victory. "The first two days were probably the best I've ever played. I've never had an 11-shot lead after two rounds before."

Although Westwood's fourth-round score did not match the 60 and 64 of his first two days, he was still very satisfied with it. "I thought 69 was a good score. I putted

great on the back nine."

Westwood felt the turning point on Sunday was at the 12th when he sunk a birdie after Schwartzel had also birdied and looked like he might close to within two shots.

"Fortunately I holed it. That was an important putt," he said.

He was understandably upbeat about the next season. "I'm a better player than one year ago and I'm managing my game better too," he said.

Schwartzel admitted it had been "a tough day".

He conceded that Westwood's birdies on the 12th and 13th proved decisive. "I had pulled him back to three shots and it was getting close up to that stage."

The South African said he was happy with his overall performance. "I played great. If it wasn't for Lee I would have probably won the tournament."

continues on page 15

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